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CA PRESS GUIDANCE July 12, 1982
** IF ASKED ONLY **

JOHN SULLIVAN, JOURNALIST MISSING IN EL SALVADOR

Q. Do you have any new information in the John Sullivan case?

A. On June 10 the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador received a letter which said that the body of a man who appeared to an American was buried in a small town (Plan de Lopez, Nuevo Cuscatalan) outside the city of San Salvador. On the basis of this information, the Embassy investigated burial records, interviewed local officials, and ultimately requested the exhumation of a body. The exhumation took place on July 9. The Embassy has arranged for a forensic specialist to examine the remains. I want to emphasize that no identification, even tentative, has yet been possible.

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Q. Is there any connection between this discovery and the statement by two Salvadoran guerrillas in Mexico on July 7 that Sullivan was in jail in El Salvador?

A. The Embassy was acting on a letter received a month before the guerrillas made their statement.

Q. John Sullivan disappeared on December 28, 1980. Why has it taken so long to find any information?

A. The Embassy has been actively seeking Sullivan's whereabouts since his disappearance. We have received

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many tips and leads in this case. All have been investigated, or are being investigated, but none have yet panned out.

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